

GENERAL NOTES

Conducted by M. H. Swenk

A House Wren Despoils a Purple Martin Nest.—We have had quite a little argument regarding the destructive habits of the House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*) and it has been pretty hard to believe some of the articles that we have read, but they say "seeing is believing," and at our house we are converted. We watched a wren enter the Purple Martin house and throw out an egg, in spite of our efforts to frighten it away, so that ends the wren houses at our place, although they have nested there for twenty years.—T. ROSS WALLACE, *Atlantic, Iowa.*

A House Wren Drives Away a Pair of Cardinals.—Our screened porch, covered with grape vines, affords a most habitable place for birds, and in the spring of 1925 we discovered a pair of Cardinals building a nest. I watched them from day to day until the nest was finished and the eggs were laid. A pair of House Wrens, however, occupied a nest in a neighbor's yard, and I often saw them flying about. One day while busy indoors I heard an unusual amount of scolding and chattering near the Cardinal's nest, and upon investigating found a House Wren in the Cardinal's nest with its bill in an egg. I immediately frightened the wren away and was determined to see the outcome of this heinous act. The unhappy Cardinal stayed on, until another time I again heard the same confusion and scolding. This time the incorrigible little wren had thrown the egg on the ground and was again occupying the nest. The Cardinals this time abandoned their home.

Last summer our vines were occupied by a family of Catbirds, but they finished their nesting season without any disturbance. However, we have done away with all the wren houses in our immediate neighborhood.—MRS. C. G. SCHMIDT, *Elkader, Iowa.*

Observations on the House Wren in Virginia.—As there has been much discussion recently concerning the nest-robbing habits of the House Wren, the following observations may be of interest.

I have about my home a number of one-room bird houses of different sizes, suitable for House Wrens, Bluebirds, Crested Flycatchers and Flickers, and two Purple Martin houses, each with ten rooms of standard dimensions. Early in the season a pair of House Wrens built in a Crested Flycatcher house, and at once filled a Bluebird house about fifty yards away with sticks. They raised a brood in spite of two attacks from Black Snakes (*Coluber constrictor*), which, luckily, I saw in time to save the nestlings.

On July 27, they had a second brood in a gable room, in the east end of a Purple Martin house thirty yards from the house in which the first brood had been reared, and had filled one room on the north side of the house with sticks. That house had not been taken by Purple Martins this season. On this date I noticed that a pair of Bluebirds were nesting in a room on the south side of the same martin house, evidently having very young nestlings at that time, the young wrens being two-thirds grown. This situation was of great interest to me, as it is the first time I have known either species to nest in the same house with any other species, so I watched them quite closely, mornings and evenings, through the rest of their stay in the house.